PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

a re application of

Docket No: Q62879

#4

Katsumaru OHNO

Appln. No.: 09/769,407

Group Art Unit: 2631

Confirmation No.: 4711

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: January 26, 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

JAN 0 6 2003

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

For:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-274978, published October 8, 1999.
- Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 10-209953, published August 7,
 1998.
- 3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-98071, published April 9, 1999.
- 4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-22665, published January 21, 2000.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from

the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under

§1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3)

Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE)

under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is

required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign

language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Japanese Office Action dated October 8,

2002 and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites and indicates the degree of

relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document

constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to

take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a

competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Howard L. Bernstein Registration No. 25,665 for

J. Frank Osha

Registration No. 24,625

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: January 3, 2003

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